

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing that the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games will make the people of my district special ambassadors of good will by bringing the focus of international equestrian sport to what truly will be the Horse Capital of the World.

#### HONORING JIM RINGLAND

#### HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 21, 2010*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jim Ringland of Holts Summit, MO, who received the Silver Order of Saint Philip of Neri Award for his service in the United States Special Forces. Mr. Ringland served in the Special Forces for 26 years and has been a member of the Special Forces Association for 40 years.

The award is presented to those who are "selfless, superb teachers and inspirational leaders", the qualities of an ideal Special Forces soldier. Mr. Ringland received this honor due in large part to his exemplary performance as a teacher in the Green Berets, where he trained soldiers in areas such as psychological warfare, survival, and unconventional warfare. The Silver Order of Saint Philip of Neri Award has only been given to 10 people before Mr. Ringland.

Our country has been blessed to have citizens who have selflessly volunteered to defend our nation and freedom. They are the reason why we are the strongest nation on Earth, and the reason we stand today with freedom unparalleled across the globe. Without our nation's veterans and military men and women, and men like Jim Ringland, we would not have the rights and privileges that we as Americans enjoy today.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DR. GREG MATHIS, SENIOR PASTOR AT MUD CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH IN HENDERSONVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

#### HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 21, 2010*

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and accomplishments of Dr. Greg T. Mathis, Senior Pastor of Mud Creek Baptist Church of Hendersonville, North Carolina. This year, as Dr. Mathis celebrates his 30th year at Mud Creek Baptist Church, I am proud to pay tribute to his remarkable career of faith, strength, and the desire to live a fulfilling life helping others.

Serving as Senior Pastor since 1980, Dr. Mathis and his wife Deborah have helped build Mud Creek Baptist Church into a nationally recognized place of worship, with an average weekly attendance of 2700. Mud Creek Baptist Church was recently identified in a book entitled "Excellent Protestant Congregations," as an excellent place to worship in America.

Dr. Mathis's good work does not stop at his own church. He regularly preaches at revivals,

Bible conferences, and seminars throughout the Southern Baptist Convention. He has served as the President of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention and the North Carolina Pastors' Conference and as a member of the Executive, Resolutions, and Budget Committees of the Southern Baptist Convention. He was named as one of the most influential people in Baptist life by The Biblical Recorder, and was presented the Order of the Long Leaf Pine Award by Governor James B. Hunt for his service to the state of North Carolina.

Dr. Mathis graduated from Gardner-Webb College in 1977 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree and went on to graduate from the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1980 with a Master of Divinity Degree. He has been recognized with two Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degrees from Gardner-Webb University in 2001 and North Greenville University in 2010. He is a published author with several well known books, including Five Smooth Stones and The Ultimate Life.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the impressive life and career of Dr. Greg T. Mathis. It is an honor for me to recognize his accomplishments and the profound impact he has on the religious life of countless Western North Carolinians, and to wish him continued success in future years.

THE OIL POLLUTION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION (H.R. 2693) AND THE SAFER OIL AND NATURAL GAS DRILLING TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (H.R. 5716)

#### HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 21, 2010*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of today's oil spill legislation as part of Congress' comprehensive response to the Deepwater Horizon disaster in the Gulf.

The Oil Pollution Research and Development Program Reauthorization (H.R. 2693) will provide badly needed additional resources for oil spill research and development, as well as streamline the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Oil Pollution Research currently responsible for the nation's federally funded oil spill pollution R&D. Additionally, the Safer Oil and Natural Gas Drilling Technology Research and Development Program (H.R. 5716) will ensure that the federal government's existing R&D program for deepwater drilling is as focused on accident prevention, worker safety and environmental impact mitigation as it is on resource recovery.

While relatively modest in scope, these two initiatives will bring a more appropriate balance to federal policy with respect to deepwater drilling, help reduce the risk of future deepwater accidents, and improve our ability to respond to those accidents should they occur again.

I urge a yes vote.

RECOGNIZING THE 36TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INVASION OF CYPRUS AND COMMENDING EFFORTS TO REACH A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT LEADING TO THE REUNIFICATION OF CYPRUS

#### HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 21, 2010*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, this past weekend marked the 36th anniversary of the invasion of Cyprus by Turkish forces. During the war, approximately 5,000 Cypriots were killed and close to 200,000 Greek Cypriots were forcibly removed from their homes. This anniversary also marks another year in which Cyprus is divided between north and south and between the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot communities.

However, despite 36 years of division in Cyprus, I remain hopeful about reaching a just and lasting settlement. Following his election in February 2008, President Demetris Christofias followed through on his commitment to make the solution of the Cyprus problem his top priority. In September of that year, he embarked on full-fledged negotiations with Mehmet Talat, who was at the time the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community. I am encouraged that these negotiations are continuing under the new Turkish Cypriot leader Dervis Eroglu.

The ongoing talks aim at reaching a comprehensive settlement for the Cyprus problem with the goal of achieving the unification of Cyprus based on a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation and political equality, as set out in the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions. The agreement should also lead to a single sovereignty, single citizenship and single international personality for Cyprus.

The House of Representatives has voiced its strong support for comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus issue. On October 9, 2007, the House passed House Resolution 405, which expressed its support for the immediate implementation of the U.N.-brokered July 8, 2006 agreement as the way forward to prepare for new comprehensive negotiations leading to the reunification of Cyprus within a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation. In addition, the resolution called upon the United States Government to fully support the immediate implementation of this agreement in its entirety.

There are still many difficult issues that need to be resolved before a comprehensive agreement to the Cyprus problem can be achieved. Turkey, which continues to deploy 43,000 troops in Cyprus, is critical to reaching such an agreement. I urge Turkey to work constructively with the Cypriots in support of a negotiated settlement and the peaceful reunification of the island.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

#### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 21, 2010*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$13,245,998,461,216.30.